

CULTURAL ITINERARIES

*En plein air*

# BORDIGHERA

## OUTDOOR CULTURAL ITINERARIES GUIDE YOU TO DISCOVER BORDIGHERA!

*En plein air* - in the open air is how the Impressionists painted, but it is also a way to experience the territory. By combining the discovery of cultural heritage with the lush nature of the gardens, you can find well-being while strolling among the eclectic architectures of the Mediterranean city.



The Pallanca Exotic Garden is about 3km away. Parking is easy in the area, and there is a convenient bus stop on the Sanremo-Ventimiglia line right next to the garden.

15 →



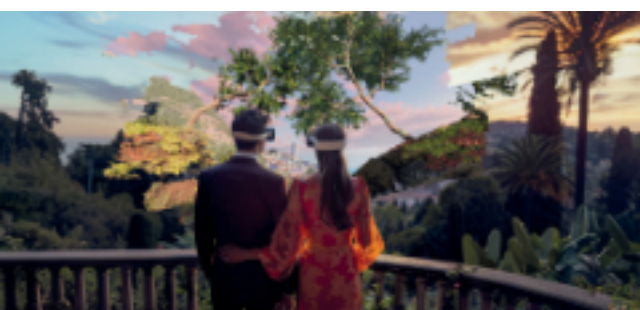
CITTÀ DI BORDIGHERA

### INFORMATION

+39 0184 262882  
Tourist Information and Reception Office

Via Vittorio Emanuele II 172, located at the Gardens of Palazzo del Parco

[www.visitbordighera.it](http://www.visitbordighera.it)



### On Monet's trail

follow the steps of the Impressionist painter Claude Monet, who stayed in Bordighera in 1884, where he painted 38 works.

#### ITINERARY ON MONET'S TRAIL

1. Tourist Information Office IAT
2. Monet on Via Romana
3. Monet on Via Romana
4. Monet on Via Romana
5. Monet Gardens
6. Pension Anglaise
7. Pompeo Mariani Foundation
8. Entrance to the Beodo Path
9. Beodo Path
10. Lungomare Argentina

Walking time: 1.30 h  
Distance: 55 km - Medium-easy itinerary



### Among Villas and Gardens

This itinerary guides you through the built and natural riches of Bordighera: eclectic architectures, splendid gardens, monumental trees.

#### ITINERARY AMONG VILLAS AND GARDENS

1. Tourist Information Office IAT
2. Lungomare Argentina
3. Church of the Immaculate Conception (Terra Santa)
4. Cape Sant'Ampelio
5. Villa Garnier and garden
6. Palazzo Garnier and Ficus Macrophylla
7. Via Romana
8. Villa Regina Margherita
9. Villa Etelinda
10. Bicknell Museum - Ligurian Studies Institute
11. International Civic Library
12. Lowe Gardens
13. Waldensian Church
14. Former Anglican Church
15. Pallanca Exotic Garden

Walking time: 1 h  
Distance: 35 km - Easy itinerary

The itineraries are designed for outdoor enjoyment. However, some places are visitable; check their websites for more information on access and visit modalities.

[www.visitbordighera.it](http://www.visitbordighera.it)



CITTÀ DI BORDIGHERA



# On Monet's trail

5

## MONET GARDENS

"A garden like that is indescribable, it is pure magic; all the plants in the world grow there in the soil."\*

The Monet Gardens are what remains of the Moreno Gardens, which at the time covered a vast area from the seafront to the upper town. Owned by Francesco Moreno, the French consul, the gardens were so impressive in variety and size that their fame spread internationally. Thanks to a recommendation, Monet was able to access them and was left in awe | 5 |.

\*Bordighera, February 5, 1884, letter from Claude Monet to Alice Hoschedé

10

## "AS FOR THE BLUE OF THE SEA AND SKY, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE."\*

In its final stretch, the path leads you to the sea | 10 |, whose dazzling blue captured Monet's gaze. From the green of the Mediterranean scrub, you descend towards Cape Sant'Ampelio, where the view extends in every direction, and then along the promenade to return to the starting point.

\*Bordighera, February 5, 1884, letter from Claude Monet to Alice Hoschedé.



# Among Villas and Gardens

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## CAPO SANT'AMPELIO

The southernmost promontory of Liguria | 4 | is home to a small church dating back to the 11th century. Sant'Ampelio is the Patron Saint of Bordighera, also known for having brought the seeds of the first date palms to the region. The celebrations in his honor take place on May 14th and include religious ceremonies, dances, and fireworks. Near the church, you can see the monument dedicated to Queen Margherita.

10 11

## BORDIGHERA INTERNATIONAL IDENTITY

The Bicknell Museum - Ligurian Studies Institute | 10 | is an important cultural and research center founded in 1888 by Clarence Bicknell. It houses botanical, archaeological, and artistic collections. In the garden, there is a monumental Ficus Macrophylla. The International Civic Library | 11 | has offered a vast collection of multilingual content since 1883. The current Victorian building was constructed in 1910.

Check the website for details on organizing your visit.

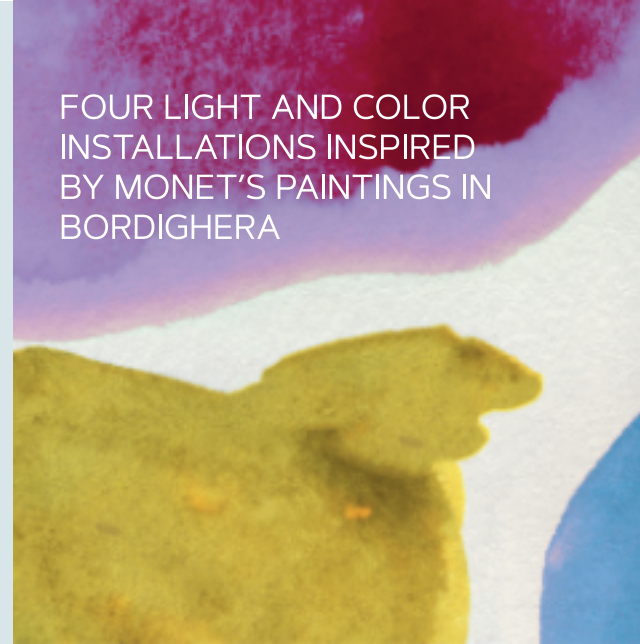
6

## PENSION ANGLAISE: AN INTERNATIONAL RESIDENCE

In 1884, Monet stayed here | 6 |, from where his explorations, thoughts, and letters originated. Away from the elegant crowd, he observed the social life, attended the carnival, and enjoyed the spectacle of the sea. At that time, the city was teeming with international figures, such as the famous French architect Charles Garnier (1825-1898), who designed and built several buildings on the Riviera and in Bordighera.

See the "Among Villas and Gardens" itinerary for more information.

## FOUR LIGHT AND COLOR INSTALLATIONS INSPIRED BY MONET'S PAINTINGS IN BORDIGHERA



## BEYOND MONET: AMONG VILLAS AND GARDENS OF BORDIGHERA

It's no coincidence that Monet was captivated by Bordighera: the sumptuous villas, such as Villa Etelinda, tell the eclectic charm of the Belle Époque, while the gardens, like the Pallanca Exotic Garden, offer an incredible variety of botanical species. The proposed route will take you to discover various points of interest in the city.

5

## VILLA GARNIER

While overseeing the construction of the Paris Opera House (Opéra Garnier), architect Charles Garnier designed his villa in Bordighera in 1871 | 5 |. The building, with three floors and a turret, is an icon of the Riviera. The villa, an architectural masterpiece, also contains a green oasis, the result of a collaboration between Garnier's son, Christian, and the landscape architect Ludwig Winter.

Check the website for details on organizing your visit.

12

## LOWE GARDENS

The gardens | 12 | named after Charles Henry Lowe, embellish the landscape with over 60 century-old olive trees, an ancient Pinus pinea, a Grevillea robusta, and numerous palms, including a Butia capitata. This is just one of Lowe's gifts to the city, which also includes the Lawn Tennis Club, officially the oldest in Italy: founded in 1878, only a year after the Wimbledon tennis courts.

1

## "I LEAVE FULL OF ENTHUSIASM, I HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT I WILL DO WONDERFUL THINGS."\*

At the Tourist Information Office IAT in Bordighera | 1 | you will find information about the area and en plein air routes.

Check the website for opening hours.

A short distance away is the train station that connects the city with Italy and France: Monet also arrived by train.

\*Paris, January 17, 1884. Letter from Monet on the eve of his departure for Bordighera.

7

## POMPEO MARIANI FOUNDATION

From the top of the old town, in the garden of the Pompeo Mariani Foundation | 7 |, you can admire some of the most significant views painted by Monet in Bordighera. The painter Pompeo Mariani (1857-1927) purchased this land in 1909 precisely because of its connection to Monet. In the monumental garden, you'll find the studio and residence designed by Garnier, expanded by Broggi, and decorated by Mazzucotelli.

Accessibility may be limited. Visit the website for more information on planning a visit.



1 2 3

## LUNGOMARE ARGENTINA

Starting from the Tourist Information Office IAT | 1 |, you can head towards Lungomare Argentina | 2 |, which stands out as the longest pedestrian promenade on the Riviera. It runs for two kilometers between the railway and the beach, flanked by impressive rows of Araucaria excelsa and lively gardens adorned with succulents and flowers. The name honors the inauguration carried out in July 1947 by Evita Perón, the wife of the Argentine President. A short detour will take you to the Church of the Immaculate Conception (Terra Santa) | 3 |, designed by Garnier in 1883.

6

## THE GATES OF BORDIGHERA ALTA

At the entrance to the historic center of Bordighera, you can admire Palazzo Garnier | 6 |, inaugurated in 1878 and designed by Charles Garnier. Originally intended as a school, it later became the town hall. Near this classical-style building, numerous exotic species grow, including agaves, palms, succulents, and two monumental Ficus Macrophylla trees. From here, you can proceed to visit the hilltop village.

13 14

## PLACES OF CULTURE AND WORSHIP

The Waldensian Church | 13 |, built in 1901 and designed by Rudolf Winter, reflects a Neo-Romanesque style. The Anglican Church of Bordighera | 14 |, on the other hand, was constructed in 1873 and is an example of Neo-Gothic architecture, designed by architect Clarence Tait for the resident British community. Both churches are important testimonies to the international presence in the city and now host cultural activities.

2 3 4

## VIA ROMANA THROUGH MONET'S EYES

By positioning yourself on the M markers, you can see with your own eyes what Monet painted.

In 1884, this area was home to the Moreno Gardens, vast and rich in botanical varieties: | 2 | to the east, among palms and exotic plants, Villa Etelinda and Bordighera Alta emerge | 3 |. With the mountains as a backdrop, you can see the current Bicknell Museum on the right, and in front of it, the tower of Villa Etelinda | 4 |, until the ascent of the imposing Villa Regina Margherita also comes into view.

Visit the website for more details.

8 9

## THE BEODO PATH: THE MOST UNTOUCHED NATURE

Along the ancient aqueduct channel | 8 |, the path offers a privileged vantage point from which to admire nature: centuries-old trees, palm groves, the Sasso Valley, and the coastline. Monet also used this trail to venture into the valley | 9 | towards the wildest areas. You can continue the loop or return towards the upper town of Bordighera.

Accessibility for strollers and reduced mobility may be limited.

In the city, there are four large light installations that pay tribute to Monet's time in Bordighera, evoking evocative impressions inspired by the nature that we can still admire today. The phrases in French and Italian quote Monet's words from the letters he wrote in Bordighera. Like large palettes, the totems evoke through colors, lights, and words the impressions Monet captured on his canvases.

7 8 9

## VIA ROMANA

Along Via Romana, you'll find green spaces with centuries-old trees, remnants of the ancient Moreno Gardens. In the private garden of Villa Schiva, next to the Monet Gardens, stands the tallest Pinus Canariensis in Europe (35 m) | 7 |. This street, an inspiration for Monet, is at the heart of Bordighera's architectural development and houses treasures such as Villa Regina Margherita | 8 |, built between 1914 and 1915 by Milanese architect Luigi Broggi, with a garden designed by Ludwig Winter, and Villa Etelinda | 9 |, constructed by Charles Garnier in 1873 for the banker Raphaël Bischoffsheim.

Check the website for details on organizing your visit.

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## A DAY TRIP

The Pallanca Exotic Garden | 15 | is a botanical garden specializing in cacti and succulent plants, spanning 10,000 square meters. Located on the sandstone rocks of Monte Nero's slopes, the garden features stairways and terraces carved into the ochre rock, creating a unique atmosphere. Among shaded areas and spaces for meditation, it offers a panoramic view of the sea and the bay.

Check the website for details on organizing your visit.